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PATENT

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Attorney Docket No.	Serial No.
100P306US01	10/625,345

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

In re the Application of:	Michael L. Benson et al.		
Serial No.:	10/625,345	Examiner:	
Confirmation No.:		Art Unit:	
Filed:	July 23, 2003		
For:	METHOD OF VACUUM TUMBLING FOR PROCESSING MEAT		
We are transmitting the following documents: Return Postcard Transmittal Letter (1 page) Information Disclosure Statement Form 1449, with copies attached of eighteen (18) documents referenced thereon			

Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 45,070	Direct Dial 612-331-7419	
Date: November 5, 2003	Robin A. Sannes	
United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer No. 23322		

Certificate of Mailing

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States mail, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date.	
	Signature
Date of Mailing November 5, 2003	Printed Name Nancy E. Ruth



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael J. Benson et al. Examiner:
Serial No.: 10/625,345 Group Art Unit:
Filed: July 23, 2003 Docket No.: 100P306US01
Title: METHOD OF VACUUM TUMBLING FOR PROCESSING MEAT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on November 5, 2003.

Robin A. Sannes

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicant does not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0549.

Respectfully submitted,

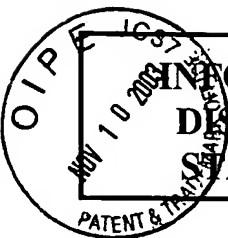
MICHAEL J. BENSON ET AL.

Date: 11/5/2003

By: Robin A. Sannes

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**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

Atty. Docket No.: 100P306US01	Serial No.: 10/625,345
Applicant(s): Michael J. Benson et al.	Confirmation No.:
Filing Date: July 23, 2003	Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	3,987,209	10/1976	Gatineau et al.	426	396	
	4,409,704	10/1983	Seiffhart	17	45	
	4,446,779	5/1984	Hubbard et al.	99	472	
	4,942,053	7/1990	Franklin et al.	426	524	
	5,543,163	8/1996	Groves	426	231	
	5,603,567	2/1997	Peacock	366	139	
	5,714,188	2/1998	Gilchrist	426	281	
	5,846,594	12/1998	Zimmerman et al.	426	643	
	6,105,490	8/2000	Horn et al.	99	472	
	6,020,012	2/2000	Kauffman et al.	426	281	
	6,040,013	3/2000	Karales	427	281	
	2002/0023549	2/2002	Thornton et al.	99	472	
	2003/0180439	9/2003	Paterson et al.	426	641	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
						Yes
	55054854	4/1980	Japan	A23B 4/08		No
	0028113	5/1981	Europe	A23B 4/02		
	0209268	1/1987	Europe	A23B 4/02		
	584764	6/1987	Australia	A23J 003/00		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Authors, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)

Examiner Initial	Document Description
	Meat Focus International, Riëtte van Laack, Effect of sodium bicarbonate on the quality of pork, November 1996, pp. 392-3.

EXAMINER	Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.